

AA-313  
Manresa  
Manresa

c. 1926  
private

Manresa was built as a retreat house by the Society of Jesus in 1926. Like many institutional buildings erected in the 1920's, Manresa's style is Colonial Revival on a large scale. The view from Manresa across the Severn River to Annapolis is spectacular.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MANRESA

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Manresa Rd. south side of Rt. 450

CITY, TOWN

Manresa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Society of Jesus, Md. Province  
Manresa Trustees

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Manresa Retreat House

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel

Liber #: 764  
Folio #: 224

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-313

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE  
Situating high on a hill, facing south, Manresa has a spectacular view across the Severn River to Annapolis.

The building is approached from a lane on the west side of Rt. 450, less than a mile from the interchange of Rt. 50- 301 and Rt. 2. Manresa is a large scale Colonial Revival building with a gambrel roof, central portico, a small dome and Palladian windows. It is 2 1/2 stories high on a raised basement and it is constructed of frame and brick. Built as a retreat house in 1926 by the Society of Jesus, the building has been enlarged to include 72 bedrooms-66 for retreat and 6 for staff. The building has three sections: a long center section with an east wing perpendicular to it , and a chapel on the west end.

The 15 bay center section built in 1926. It is covered with weatherboards and has 12 gabled dormers in the roof. A tall (2 1/2 story), 3 bay portico, having a gambrel roof with a molded cornice supported by Tuscan columns. The front of the portico roof is shingled and a Palladian window is in the center of it; in addition gabled dormers are on the east and west side of the portico roof. Above the portico is a small gilt dome with a cross on top of it. A one story , above grade porch with a flat roof extends from either side of the central portico.

The east wing, added in the late 1950's is brick with the gable end perpendicular to the main section. The upper story of the gable end is weatherboard. In design and scale the south elevation almost duplicates the central portico of the main section.

A one story brick chapel, 4 bays wide, with a 2 story , 2bay addition joins the west flank of the main section. It has pointed arch windows within recessed rectangular panels. There is a library beneath the chapel. The chapel was built in the 1940's. At the rear of the building, facing the parking lot and the entrance lane, are the service and kitchen entrances.

The main entrance is in the center bay, front elevation. It has double glass and panel doors and an entrance with a ten light transom and a broken pediment. Above the doors which flank the main entrance are rectangular panels containing raised classical designs.

Windows are spaced evenly on the main block, s. el. With the exception of those in the center of the main section, behind the portico, they contain 6/6 double hung sash on all stories. The south and east elevations of the east wing have large windows divided into 18 panes on the first floor flanked by 12/12 light windows, and 6/6 light sash on the upper stories. There is an additional Palladian window on the center section, rear elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

AA-313

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **1926**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Manresa was built as a retreat house for the Society of Jesus in 1926. Now providing space for any group that wishes to make a spiritual retreat, the building was one of the first in the United States to be built specifically as a retreat, rather than as a seminary or monastery with retreat facilities.

Like many institutional buildings erected in the 1920's, Manresa's style is Colonial Revival on a large scale.

The view, across the Severn River to Annapolis, from the hill top on which Manresa sits, can only be described as spectacularly beautiful, making the building's location its most significant feature.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton Carroll Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel Ct. Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

Sept. 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Arundel Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## 7. Description cont.

The three sections of the building have gambrel roofs covered with asphalt shingles, the ridges running east to west on the main and west sections and north to south on the east section.

A long flight of stairs(cement) leads from the main entrance in the portico to the river. Various religious statues are placed on the terraced hill side near the stairs.



AA - 313

Manresa  
South front

M. M. Carroll

Sept. 1918





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South front

M. M. Canad 11

Sept. 1978



AA-313

Manresa

South front

M. M. Carroll

Sept. 1978

